

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A system for representing object-oriented entities in a relational table comprising:
  - a database table comprising data identifying attribute values of objects belonging to a plurality of object classes;
  - 5 one or more catalog tables comprising information that relate said attribute values to said objects represented within said database table.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1 in which said objects comprise directory information objects.
3. The system of claim 2 in which said directory information objects comprise LDAP information.
- 15 4. The system of claim 2 in which said directory information objects comprise X.500 information.
5. The system of claim 1 in which said database table comprises a column identifying attribute names.
- 20 6. The system of claim 1 in which said database table comprises a column identifying said attribute values.

7. The system of claim 1 in which said database table comprises a column identifying object identification numbers.

8. The system of claim 1 comprising a separate catalog table for each attribute type.

5

9. The system of claim 1 in which said one or more catalog tables each comprises a row identifying object identification numbers that correlate to said attribute values.

10. The system of claim 1 in which said attribute values are stored in said database table  
10 in a protocol ready format.

11. The system of claim 10 in which said protocol ready format is the LDAP protocol format.

15 12. A system for representing object-oriented entities in relational tables comprising:  
a database table comprising data identifying attributes of objects belonging to a plurality of object classes; and

a distinguished names table comprising information that identify unique system identification names for said objects represented in said database table.

20

13. The system of claim 12 in which said distinguished names table identifies full paths of parent objects for said objects.

14. The system of claim 13 in which said full paths of parent objects are stored with higher hierarchical levels of the paths listed before lower hierarchical levels of the paths of said parent objects.

5

15. The system of claim 12 in which said information from said distinguished names table identifies relative distinguished names of said objects.

16. A system for representing data in a relational database table comprising:

10 a database table comprising one or more rows and one or more columns; said database table storing data in said one or more rows and in said one or more

columns; and  
metadata information stored in said database table, said metadata information describing said data.

15

17. The system of claims 16 in which said data comprises object-oriented data.

18. The system of claim 17 in which said metadata information comprises definition data for attribute types.

20

19. The system of claim 17 in which said metadata information comprises definition data for object classes.

20. The system of claim 16 in which said data comprises directory information objects.

21. A method for representing object-oriented entities in a relational table comprising:

storing attribute information for attributes of objects belonging to a plurality of

5 object classes in a database table, said database table comprising one row for each attribute;  
and

generating one or more catalog tables, said one or more catalog tables comprising  
data entries that relate values for said attributes to said objects represented within said  
database table.

10

22. A method for representing data in a relational database table comprising:

storing data in a database table, said database table comprising one or more rows and  
one or more columns; and

storing metadata information for said data in said database table.

15

23. A method for representing object-oriented entities in a relational table comprising:

storing attribute information for attributes of objects belonging to a plurality of

object classes in a database table, said database table comprising one row for each attribute;

storing identification data in a distinguished names table; and

20 said identification data identifying unique system identification names for said  
objects represented in said database table.